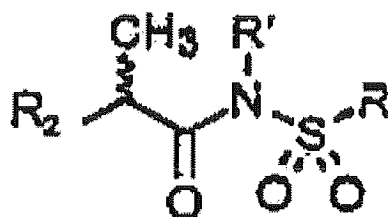


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 5. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic method for the treatment of spinal cord injury comprising administering a subject in need thereof a therapeutic effective amount of at least one N-(2-aryl-propionyl)-sulfonamide of general formula (I):



(I)

in which:

R₂ is an aryl ~~group,~~ group;

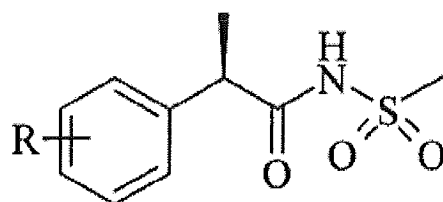
R is a straight or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl, trifluoromethyl, cyclohexyl, o-tolyl, 3-pyridyl, 2-pyridyl-ethyl, p-cyano-phenylmethyl, p-aminophenylmethyl, 3-cyano-1-propyl,

4-aminobutyl group, an alkoxyethylene CH₃-(CH₂)_{n_i}- (OCH₂CH₂)_{m_i}- group in which n_i is zero or 1 and m_i is an integer of from 1 to 3, or a P₁P₂N-CH₂-CH₂- group in which P₁ and P₂ are independently H, C₁-C₃-alkyl, benzyloxy-carbonyl, α-, β- or γ-pyridocarbonyl, carboxycarbonyl or carbalkoxycarbonyl, or P₁ and P₂ when joined to the N atom which they are linked to, form a phthalimido, ~~piperidino,~~ piperidino or morpholino residue; and

R' is H or straight or branched C₁-C₃-alkyl.

6. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic method according to claim 5 wherein R' is hydrogen.

7. (Currently Amended) The therapeutic method according to claim 5, comprising administering the compounds of formula (Ia):



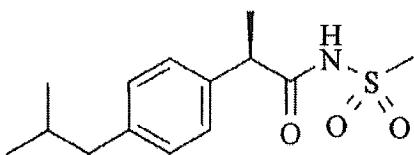
(Ia)

wherein R represents one to three substituents, which are the same or different, selected from hydrogen, halogen atoms, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, hydroxy, C₁-C₇-acyloxy, cyano, nitro, amino, C₁-C₃-acylamino, halo C₁-C₃-alkyl, halo C₁-C₃-alkoxy, benzoyl, 4-(2-methyl-propyl)-phenyl, 3-phenoxy-phenyl, 2-[4-(1-oxo-2-isoindoliny)phenyl], 5-benzoyl-thien-2-yl, 4-thienoyl-phenyl, and C₁-C₂-halogenoalkylsulphonyloxy.

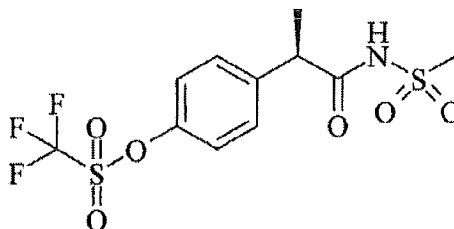
8. **(Previously Presented)** The therapeutic method according to claim 7 wherein R represents hydrogen, 4-isobutyl, 3-benzoyl or 4-trifluoromethanesulphonyloxy.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The therapeutic method according to claim 7 wherein R represents, 4-isobutyl or 4-trifluoromethanesulphonyloxy.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The therapeutic method according to claim 7 comprising administering at least one of the compounds of formula (II) and (III).



(II)



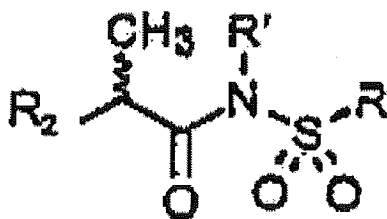
(III)

11. **(Previously Presented)** The therapeutic method according to claim 5, wherein the N-(2-aryl-propionyl)-sulfonamide is intravenously or intramuscularly administered.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The therapeutic method according to claim 11 wherein the N-(2-aryl-propionyl)-sulfonamide is administered as a bolus.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The therapeutic method according to claim 5, wherein the N-(2-aryl-propionyl)-sulfonamide is daily administered at least once in amounts ranging from 1 to 1500 mg.

14. **(New)** A therapeutic method for blocking oligodendrocyte apoptosis, reducing tissue damage and promoting functional recovery following spinal cord injury comprising administering a subject in need thereof a therapeutic effective amount of at least one N-(2-aryl-propionyl)-sulfonamide of general formula (I):



(I)

in which:

R₂ is an aryl group;

R is a straight or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl, trifluoromethyl, cyclohexyl, o-tolyl, 3-pyridyl, 2-pyridyl-ethyl, p-cyano-phenylmethyl, p-aminophenylmethyl, 3-cyano-1-propyl, 4-aminobutyl group, an alkoxyethylene CH₃-(CH₂)_{n_i}- (OCH₂CH₂)_{m_i}- group in which n_i is zero or 1 and m_i is an integer of from 1 to 3, or a P₁P₂N-CH₂-CH₂- group in which P₁ and P₂ are independently H, C₁-C₃- alkyl, benzyloxy-carbonyl, α-, β- or γ-pyridocarbonyl, carboxycarbonyl

or carbalkoxycarbonyl, or P_1 and P_2 when joined to the N atom which they are linked to, form a phthalimido, piperidino or morpholino residue; and

R' is H or straight or branched C_1 - C_3 -alkyl.